

REMARKS

This is in response to the June 13, 2007 non-final Office Action. Claims 44-61 are pending.

In the above amendment, claims 44-61 are added and claims 1, 2, 7, 9-10, 19-28 and 30-43 are cancelled.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

On page 3, item 5 of the June 13, 2007 non-final Office Action, claims 1-2, 7, 9-10, 19-28, 30, 33, 37, 39 and 41-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Ghahremani et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005-0180429) in view of the new reference Walker et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004-0044630).

Neither Ghahremani et al. nor Walker et al. disclose or suggest a feature rights management agent “to compare the destination IDs in received keys to its own agent ID” and “for receiving un-needed permissions pushed from application sub-agents and thereby placing them in the repository and for receiving pull permission requests from application sub-agents” as recited in new independent claims 44 and 48. The present inventions push permissions up [0023] to an intermediate feature rights management agent. Walker et al. force licenses down [0044] from the server of a remote feature activation system 109 to either a spare system 100 or a main system 150. Neither Walker et al. nor Ghahremani et al. disclose or suggest an intermediate agent as claimed. Because the application sub-agents are provisioned by an operator to push or pull permissions, management is simplified because the feature rights server has knowledge of only what feature rights management agents obtained feature key rights and the feature rights server and its operator are not burdened with the data of which sub-agents in the facilities have activated features. Equipment is capable of autonomously returning to an operational state without authorizations from a remote node.

Furthermore, in Ghahremani et al. resources allocated to calls are returned to a free pool when a call is terminated [0164, 0165]. The present inventions as claimed push features up when sub-agent is provisioned by an operator. Returning resources upon termination of calls would not have lead one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to push features up to an intermediate agent when sub-agent is provisioned by an operator, particularly in the two level systems of Ghahremani et al. or Walker et al. The present inventions allow feature rights, not processor resources, to be securely transferred in keys to an intermediate agent while a plurality of application sub-agents only receive permissions and thus do not need to be accounted for by serial number, providing greater operator flexibility and reliability.

Ghahremani et al. also do not disclose an intermediate agent nor consider serial numbers. Ghahremani et al. use a two level hierarchy. The spare system 100 of Walker et al. compares an internal serial number of only processor 102 and not any intermediate agent. By providing an intermediate feature rights management agent with an agent ID or serial number, no serial number validation is required for sub-agents below the intermediate feature rights management, and greater software flexibility and easier deployment of hardware for application sub-agents is accomplished.

Accordingly, new claims 44-61 are patentable over Ghahremani et al. in view of Walker et al.

On page 12, item 6 of the June 13, 2007 non-final Office Action, claims 31, 35, 32 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Ghahremani et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005-0180429) and Walker et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004-0044630) further in view of Summers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,098,133).

Summers et al. discloses a PCI bus in a computer interconnect that apparently is trusted because it does not perform serial number validation with connected agent cards. Given the encountered problems solved by the intermediate agent of the claimed inventions, a PCI bus such as that of Summers et al. would not have lead one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

the inventions to make the claimed inventions. The present inventions allow feature rights to be securely transferred in keys to an intermediate agent while a plurality of application sub-agents only receive permissions and thus do not need to be accounted for by serial number. Greater software flexibility and easier deployment of hardware for telecommunications application sub-agents is accomplished.

Accordingly, new claims 44-61 are patentable over Ghahremani et al. in view of Walker et al. and Summers et al.

On page 13, item 7 of the June 13, 2007 non-final Office Action, new claims 34, 38, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Ghahremani et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005-0180429) and Walker et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004-0044630) further in view of Salkini et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,912,203).

Salkini et al. do not disclose or suggest the enablement of a prepaid billing feature on application cards in a chassis. One of skill at the time of the inventions would not have combined these three references to show the claims for this prepaid feature or for the reasons above with respect to the independent claims. Prepaid is but one example of the many application features enhanced by the present inventions.

Accordingly, new claims 44-61 are patentable over Ghahremani et al. in view of Walker et al. and Salkini et al.

Serkowski

The pending claims are also patentable in view of the not applied but of interest art Serkowski (U.S. Patent No. 6,513,121). The arguments above with respect to Walker et al. in combination, more or less, can be analogously applied to Serkowski.

Conclusion


All the issues in the non-final Office Action dated June 13, 2007 have been addressed.
An early allowance is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain, the Examiner is much invited to phone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

William V Vroman et al.

By their Representatives,

By 
Daniel W. Juffernbruch
Reg. No. 33,122
847-458-6313

Patents and Licensing LLC
28 Barrington Bourne
Barrington, IL 60010-9605
tel: 847-458-6313
fax: 815-301-8408
Dan@patentsandlicensing.com